

MINUTES

Meeting: MELKSHAM AREA BOARD
Place: Seend Community Centre
Date: 6 September 2017
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kevin Fielding (Democratic Services Officer), Tel: 01249 706612 or (e-mail) kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Hayley Spencer, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Jon Hubbard and Cllr Phil Alford

Wiltshire Council Officers

Rhys Schell – Community Engagement Manager
Kevin Fielding – Democratic Services Officer
Emma Drage – Local Youth Facilitator

Town and Parish Councils

Melksham Town Council – Adrienne Westbrook
Melksham Without Parish Council – Teresa Strange & Paul Carter
Seend Parish Council – Sue Bond & Tony March
Semington Parish Council – Ron Robinson

Partners

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner – Angus Macpherson
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Jack Nicholson
Older Persons Champion – Chris Pickett
Transwilts Cic – Graham Ellis

Total in attendance: 35

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
23	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome, Introduction and Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>The following Chairman's Announcements were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Resilience – Emergency Plans • Voice your views at interactive public meetings • Mobile Library Route consultation • Draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan
24	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Claire Harris – Melksham Town Council and Brian Warwick – Melksham Seniors.</p>
25	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 7 June and Thursday 13 July 2017 were confirmed as the correct records.
26	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Jon Hubbard & Cllr Hayley Spencer – Melksham Town Council grant application for street cleaning equipment. All are Melksham Town Cllrs – will take part in the debate and vote with an open mind.</p>
27	<p><u>Community priorities</u></p> <p>The following Community Priority Champions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People – Cllr Hayley Spencer. • Health, Wellbeing and Leisure – Cllr Pat Aves. • Transport – Cllr Roy While. • Community Safety – Cllr Jon Hubbard. • Culture – Cllr Phil Alford. • Economy - Cllr Roy While. • Our Community and Housing – Cllr Jon Hubbard & Cllr Phil Alford.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment – Cllr Jonathon Seed. • Older People - Cllr Pat Aves.
28	<p><u>Waste Management Strategy & Information on the Melksham Household Recycling Centre</u></p> <p>Tracy Carter - Associate Director Waste and Environment Waste and Environment, Wiltshire Council gave a short presentation that outlined Wiltshire Council's Consultation on a new waste management strategy to shape how the Council collects and manages household waste and recycling.</p> <p>The meeting was able to take part in a short interactive voting session that would feed into the main consultation.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council needed to develop a new waste management strategy in order to shape how it collected and managed household waste and recycling in Wiltshire. • The strategy needed to take into account Wiltshire's current challenges and also major developments in waste services. • That following the award of a collection contract to Hills Waste, kerbside services would change from 30 July 2018. These changes would make it easier for residents to recycle more at home. • That Wiltshire Council was currently undertaking a public consultation to ascertain the views of residents which would help to develop a new waste management strategy. • The questions in the consultation were based on the outcome of workshops held with Wiltshire Council elected members in July 2017. <p>The Chairman requested that a briefing note be circulated to the Parish Councils outlining the Wiltshire Council's Cabinet decision on the consultation.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Tracy Carter for her presentation.</p>
29	<p><u>Melksham Burial Space</u></p> <p>Chris Pickett – Melksham Older Persons Champion outlined a request from the Muslim community for dedicated burial space at the Melksham cemetery.</p> <p>The Chairman then outlined the report which was contained in the agenda pack. The report contained three options, The Area Board was asked to consider the</p>

	<p>report and to confirm their preferred solution from the three options available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Grant the request and provide a separate delineated area for Muslim burials. There would be the cost of installing and maintaining a boundary feature and this would contradict the council’s policy not to allocate graves prior to them being required. There would also be a risk that the rest of the cemetery extension would reach capacity and any space in the Muslim area would then be unavailable for the general population. • Option 2: Grant the request to allocate a separate area for Muslim burials, but not to delineate this and not to pre-allocate any plots. A Muslim area could be placed at one end of the extension, whilst the other is used for ‘non-Muslim’ burials. Both areas would be filled as needed. The Muslim graves could be oriented at right angles to Mecca in this scenario. There would be no financial implications. • Option 3: Decline the request to allocate a separate area for Muslim burials. This would carry some reputational risk to the council. <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Melksham Area Board grants the request to allocate a separate area for Muslim burials, but not to delineate this and not to pre-allocate any plots. A Muslim area could be placed at one end of the extension, whilst the other was used for ‘non-Muslim’ burials. Both areas would be filled as needed. The Muslim graves would be oriented at right angles to Mecca. There would be no financial implications. <p>The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Muslim community in attendance and thanked the Area Board members and Wiltshire Council officers for bringing a positive outcome to this issue.</p>
30	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group contributions</u></p> <p>The Area Board was given the opportunity to discuss feedback from Parish Councils on financial contributions to Community Area Transport funding, and to agree future funding arrangements.</p> <p>Points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there should be a threshold for small Parish Councils. • That the current CATG funding model was as fair to all as it could be.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That CATG funding was to provide minor repairs such as dropped kerbs, and not to fund full scale transport projects. • That the Melksham CATG had always had a flexible approach to the way that it conducted it's business. <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Melksham Community Area Transport Group maintains the current system of funding CATG projects.
31	<p><u>Feedback from grant funding recipients</u></p> <p>Seend Community Centre - backstage and storage extension and Melksham Leg Club - Launch of the Melksham Leg Club were given the opportunity to give feedback to the Area Board on how grant funding had benefited their groups.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked representatives of both groups for attending the Area Board meeting.</p>
32	<p><u>Area Board sub groups</u></p> <p>Melksham Wellbeing Group – Cllrs Aves</p> <p>The Health & Wellbeing Group notes dated 7 August 2017, contained in the agenda pack were noted.</p>
33	<p><u>Family Learning Festival</u></p> <p>Rhys Schell – Community Engagement Manager outlined plans for a Melksham Family Learning Festival which would provide a variety of fun, free family activities during October 2017.</p> <p>The Family Festival aimed to help address some local priorities including child poverty, mental and emotional health in particular.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Rhys Schell for his update on this worthwhile event.</p>
34	<p><u>Written Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The following written partner updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service • NHS Wiltshire/Healthwatch Wiltshire • Melksham Without Parish Council • Melksham Seniors People’s Forum • Melksham Older Persons Champion • TransWilts Cic • Chamber of Commerce <p>The Chairman thanked all partners for their updates.</p>
35	<p><u>Grant Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board members are asked to consider two applications to the Community Area Grants scheme:</p> <p>Decision Melksham Town Council awarded £4,500 for Street Cleaning Equipment.</p> <p>UK Shotokaido requesting £650 for New Children’s Karate Club in Melksham. <i>Note: this application was deferred until the November meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Cllr Seed now in the chair.</i></p> <p>The Area Board members are asked to consider one Councillor Led Initiative:</p> <p>Decision Cllr Jon Hubbard awarded £400 for the Melksham Family Learning Festival.</p>
36	<p><u>Public questions</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited any questions from the public before the meeting wrapped up.</p> <p>Q: Who at Wiltshire Council was responsible for the condition of pavements in Melksham?</p>

	<p>A: Andy Cadwallader - Highway Engineer, Highways and Streetscene – North, Wiltshire Council. Email: andy.cadwallader@wiltshire.gov.uk</p>
37	<u>Close</u>